

District Court—The Liquor Law decided Constitutional.

The District Court is now in session in this place—Judges Nash, Whitman and Peck on the Bench. It being generally known that the question of the constitutionality of the Liquor Law would be up for hearing, considerable anxiety has been felt throughout the county to learn the result, as many obstacles have been thrown in the way of the execution of the law on the ground of a sort of out-side decision against the law made some months since by Chief Justice Corwin, upon which opinion attorneys and others have led offenders to indulge in a hope of acquittal, and which opinion has emboldened violators of the law, and been the means of producing much litigation, cost, trouble and vindictive feeling throughout the entire State.

We believe the Court have taken the correct, common sense view of the question, and that their opinion will be re-affirmed by the Supreme Court if the question ever comes before a full bench. As a matter of interest to the entire State, and a high judicial opinion that will attract attention and be cited as authority hereafter, we take pleasure in giving the opinion of the Court in full.

State of Ohio }
vs. } In the District Court for
John Lawrence. } the County of Athens.
Application for the allowance of a Writ of Error to the Probate Court of said County.

Judge Whitman delivered the opinion of the Court, which was in substance, on the points here mentioned, as follows:

This is an application for the allowance of a writ of error, to the Probate Court, based among other things, upon the position claimed by plaintiff in error that, the act entitled "an act to provide against the evils resulting from the sale of intoxicating liquors in the State of Ohio, passed May 1, 1854," is unconstitutional. Counsel for the plaintiff in error contends that this act is unconstitutional on the grounds:

1st. That said act was never read three times prior to its passage.

2d. That it is a prohibitory act, and not merely an act to regulate the traffic in spirituous liquors.

We are referred to an opinion of Chief Justice Corwin, given at Chambers, to sustain the plaintiff in error. For this opinion, reference is made to a newspaper report of this case. This is not very good evidence; but, if it is to be believed, the learned judge was, in our opinion, clearly in the wrong. It was claimed that the law was void, because it had not been read upon three several days. The present law, it appears, was inserted as an amendment on the engrossment of the bill, which had already been twice read. It was then read a third time, and put on its final passage in the Senate. This, we believe, is in accordance with the parliamentary law. When a bill is once introduced on a subject, it is open to all amendments germane to the subject embraced in it; and it matters not whether the amendment is made in detail, or by striking out all after the enacting clause, and inserting an entire new bill in form pertaining to the subject matter of the original bill, and no one ever before heard that such an amendment had to be read on three separate days. The bill, not the amendment, is to be read on three several days. This clause, that a bill must be read on three several days, is no new provision; it is a mere copy of the provision contained in the old constitution. We have had, therefore, fifty years of experience under this clause, and this is the first time that ever such an objection was raised, and what was done in this case has been done with almost every law which has been passed. Every legislator will recollect innumerable instances of just such amendments as the one made in this act.

The Court, therefore, have no doubt of the invalidity of this objection, and that the act was well passed.

We have not noticed the question whether evidence can be adduced to disprove the constitutional authentication of a law. On this point we express no opinion.

The second objection is equally untenable. This is not a prohibitory law; even if a prohibitory act is unconstitutional, as to which question we express no opinion.

This law regulates the traffic so as to prevent the evils resulting from this traffic, and comes clearly within legislation for the prevention of the evils of the traffic of intoxicating liquors. Both of these objections are therefore overruled.—[Athens Messenger.]

Russian Possessions in North America.

The probability that, in the impending war in Europe, the possessions of Russia on the northwest coast of this continent may be subject to a blockade, and, perhaps to a seizure, renders it a matter of some interest to know something, both in regard to Russian America, and also the present condition of their squadron in the Pacific.

Although a writer in the North American, in an apparent disposition to make the most of the colossal proportions of Russia, on the map, refers in passing to these possessions in America, as if they were of some moment, their value is, in reality, of the most nominal description. To be sure on the map it extends from 55° to 71° north latitude, from 138° to 168° west longitude, yet the total population of this vast region, aborigines included, is but sixty thousand inhabitants. The whole interior is unexplored and unknown, and at least one third lies within the arctic zone. The whole area is about four hundred thousand square miles. The settlement of this tract of country originated with an association of Russian merchants belonging to Irkutsk, who obtained from the Emperor Paul the grant of a monopoly in trading in peltries in the Aleutian Islands and the adjacent coast; this was subsequently extended by Alexander to the whole of Russian America, and renewed by the present Czar in 1819. Kodiak was the first capital and the seat of the principal factory. It was subsequently removed to New Archangel, which has since become the chief depot of the Russian Fur Company. It is situated on an island called Sitka, in latitude 57 deg. 30 min. north, and contains somewhere about a thousand inhabitants. There are no Russian settlements on the main land, only the islands being occupied by them. The governor of the territory derives his authority from the company at Irkutsk. Its commerce has been almost exclusively confined to the transportation of furs to Canton, and the import of provisions and agricultural supplies from the Puget Sound Company of Vancouver's Island.

It is of small value, hardly amounting to a quarter of a million of dollars in a year, and will, of course, be interrupted so long as the war lasts. The continental portion of the Russian possessions is under lease to the British Fur Company, which of course stands annulled in time of war. We learn from the New York Albion that the present British squadron on our North Pacific coast is under the command of Rear Admiral Price, whose flag is in the President, of 50 guns. Under his order are the Amphitrite 24, the Dido 18, the Thetis 38, the Trincomalee 24, and the steam sloops Virago and Cockatrice, 6 and 4; in all 164 guns. It has been stated—we know not on what authority—that the British government have notified our authorities at Washington that, immediately upon the commencement of hostilities, a blockade of all the Russian ports on the Pacific would be established. If this be so, we shall soon hear of its having been promptly carried into execution, upon the news of the war reaching the Pacific. This will interrupt the commerce which, within the past year, has grown up between the Russian settlements and San Francisco, and may involve considerable loss to the parties engaged in it. An American mining company, with a large capital, has recently made arrangements for working the Russian coal mines. The interruption of this undertaking promises to be attended with serious disadvantages, especially in San Francisco, where enormous quantities of coal are required for the steamers plying in those waters. It was hoped that this new source would have abundantly supplied the market at less than half the present rates.—[Boston Atlas.]

The deaths from yellow fever, at Savannah, still range from 30 to 40 per day. It is also quite fatal in other towns in that vicinity. It is increasing at New Orleans, at the latest dates.

No. of Ditch.		Rods Long.		Average Cutting.		REMARKS.
BEGINNING.	TERMINATION.	Feet Wide on Surface.	Feet Wide on Surface.	Feet Wide on Surface.	Feet Wide on Surface.	
27 near south west cor. sec 9	take 14, sec 2	86	25	1.73	Lands in Jackson	about 250 rods in prairie along roads where timber is cut out
28 10 rods s. ne cor. sec 8	220 rods n. of F. T. road	230	10	1.80	do in sec 8 Milton	
29 10 rods n. qr. post sec 8	Swale Run in s. e. qr.	136	10	1.50	do in sec 8 and 17 Milton	enlarging old ditch from 6 to 12 feet running along south side of road enlarging old ditch from 8 to 11 feet deepening old ditch 8 inches
30 Prairie Run outlet ditch	take 5 sec 25	92	16	.90	do in sec 11 Webster	
31 near n. w. cor. sec 31	Tonsant Creek in sec 30	86	20	.83	do in sec 24 Montgomery	
32 end of old ditch sec 23	take 20 near n. line of sec	147	12	1.50	do in sec 24 Montgomery	
33 stake 20 sec 23	state road	8	4	2.00	do in sec 24 Montgomery	
34 end ditch 31	point on s. side of road	101	11	2.00	do in sec 24 Montgomery	
35 end ditch 31	point 100 rods north	101	11	2.00	do in sec 24 Montgomery	
36 end ditch 35	point n. w. on road	110	11	.75	do in sec 24 Montgomery	

SWAMP LAND NOTICE.

SEALED PROPOSALS, directed to the Commissioners of Wood County, Ohio, will be received at this office till 11th of October next, for making the Ditches and Drains described below, to drain and reclaim the Swamp Lands, surrendered to the State, lying in said county and yet undisposed of, to be paid for in said lands as below appraised.

Also, for clearing out the creek in Jackson township, from the S. W. end of Ditch 27, up for one mile, 50 feet wide; also, for clearing out the same creek from the N. E. corner of said Ditch 27, down 360 rods, 50 feet wide. For a more definite description of said ditches and drains, reference may be had to the engineer's maps and profiles on file at this office.

The lands offered in payment for said improvements are described and appraised as follows, to wit:

Township.	Section.	Range.	Town.	Part.	Acres.	Price.
Jackson.	3	9	3	south west qr	160	2.00
do	4	9	3	south half	320	2.00
do	2	9	3	north east qr	160	2.00
do	2	9	3	south east qr	160	2.25
do	9	9	3	whole	640	2.00
do	10	9	3	west half	320	2.00
do	15	9	3	north half	320	2.00
Milton.	8	9	4	east hf s e qr	80	2.00
do	2	9	4	s e qr n e qr	40	2.50
do	9	9	4	s e qr n e qr	40	2.00
do	27	9	4	n e qr n w qr	40	2.50
do	29	9	4	north west qr	160	3.00
do	29	9	4	w hf n e qr	80	4.00
Webster.	11	11	5	north east qr	160	3.00
do	11	11	5	s hf s w qr	80	2.50
do	11	11	5	n e qr s w qr	40	2.50
Montgomery	24	12	4	s hf s w qr	80	3.00

In making proposals, applicants should designate the ditches by their numbers, as above; the price per rod for which they will make each ditch or drain; and also the time of completing the same, (in no case exceeding 2 years,) and also the land, in the vicinity, selected in payment. Envelopes containing proposals, must be endorsed with the numbers or descriptions of the ditches or drains for which proposals are made.

The County Commissioners will meet on Wednesday, the 11th of October next, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of awarding contracts according to law. Successful bidders should be present, prepared to give bonds with satisfactory security, for the fulfillment of their respective contracts.

By order of the Commissioners.

J. N. WESTCOTT, County Auditor.

Auditor's Office, Wood Co., O.,
Perryburg, Sept. 7th, 1854.

UNITED STATES CONSULATES.—In recently reading the report presented to the House of Representatives on the 1st of August last, by Hon. J. Perkins, from the committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred a bill to remodel the diplomatic and consular system of the United States, we find that the aggregate amount of fees received at the consulates and commercial agencies of the United States, (two hundred and twenty in number,) amounted in 1852 to \$153,196, and in 1853 to \$149,147, or an average of about \$678 to each consulate. The knowledge of the fact that our consulates abroad pay about the wages of a day laborer, would somewhat cool, we should think, the ardor of many who are burning with zeal to serve their country in this capacity. We find that twenty-seven only are worth over \$2000, viz: Liverpool, \$14,459; Rio, \$12,223; Havana, \$8,644; Havre, \$6,566; Alexandria, \$6,000; Paris, \$5,210; Glasgow, \$4,891; St. Thomas, \$5,000; Trinidad and its agencies, \$4,216; Valparaiso, \$3,295; Zurich, \$3,639; Bremen, \$3,215; Honolulu, \$2,974; Tangier, Tripoli and Tunis, \$2,800 each; Leeds and agencies, \$2,762; Antwerp, \$2,617; Calcutta and agencies, \$2,291; Panama, \$2,289; Lahaia, \$2,084; Ponce and its agencies, \$2,212; Bordeaux, \$2,204; Dundee, \$2,184; Shanghai, \$2,103; Canton, \$2,148; Bristol, \$2,027. Eight are worth between \$1,500 and \$2,000, viz: Belfast, \$1,995; Kingston, \$1,835; Nassau, \$1,788; Marseilles, \$1,686; Aix la Chapelle, \$1,772; Basle, \$1,569; Buenos Ayres, \$1,570; Talcahuano, \$1,539. The eleven following, are worth from \$1,000 to \$1,500, viz: Amoy, Fuh Chau, Ningpo, Halifax, Naples, Leipsic, Port au Prince, Poitiers, Cape Haytien, Tampico and Aspinwall. Thirty are worth from \$500 to 1,000; sixty-four are worth from \$100 to \$500, and eighty more either return no fees, or are worth less than \$100. From these several amounts, each consul pays the rent of his office, clerk hire, and wages of his servants, if he can afford to have them.

QUICK DIGESTION—HEALTHY FOOD.—Of all articles of food, boiled rice is digested in the shortest time—an hour. As it contains eight-tenths nutritious matter, it is a valuable substance for diet. Tripe and pig's feet are digested almost as rapidly. Apples, if sweet and ripe, are next in order. Venison is digested almost as soon as apples. Roasted potatoes are digested in half the time required by the same vegetable boiled, which occupy more than three hours and a half—more than beef or mutton. Bread occupies three hours and a quarter. Stewed oysters and boiled eggs are digested in three hours and a half—an hour more is required by the same articles raw. Turkey and goose are converted in two hours and a half—an hour and a half sooner than chickens.—Roasted veal, pork, and salted beef occupy at least five hours and a half—the longest of all articles of food.—Scien. Amer.

By looking at the index to the Congressional Globe, which we now have in press, it appears that one hundred and twelve one hour speeches were made at the last session of Congress, in the House of Representatives, on the Nebraska-Kansas bill.—[Globe.]

ONE THOUSAND LIVES LOST.—The clipper barque Mermaid, arrived at San Francisco from Hong Kong, brought news that two ships bound to California with Chinese immigrants had been lost in the China sea, together with one thousand of their passengers.

In Portland, Maine, the drought has rendered the pumps useless—drinking water is seventy-five cents a barrel, and all the beautiful elm trees are dying for want of water.